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THE NATIVE SONS' FELLOWSHIPS

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A. The Native Sons of the Golden West.—The Native Sons of the Golden West have the unique distinction of being perhaps the only fraternal society in the United States which devotes its efforts and its funds to the promotion of State history. In so doing, they are taking the logical course springing out of the circumstances of their origin and membership. The idea for the founding of the order originated with General A. M. Winn, who, as grand marshal of a Fourth of July parade at San Francisco in 1875, had arranged for a division of marchers made up entirely of young men "born under the American flag" in California. Such a group was formed, and it marched in the parade, held that year on Monday, July 5. The following Sunday, July 11, a number of the participants and others within the terms of General Winn's call held a meeting, and at Winn's suggestion formed a society, choosing the name which still endures. In March, 1876, the society was incorporated, at which time it had a membership of 113. Membership was limited to men (over eighteen) born since July 7, 1846, the date when Commodore Sloat took formal possession for the United States at Monterey.¹ In 1885, the rules were extended to include native Californians born before the raising of the American flag, as well as those born afterward.

The founders seem originally to have contemplated an extension of the order into the various states of "the Golden West," but it is perhaps fortunate for the cause of history that the order eventually became purely Californian in its aims. It has increased in influence, until today there are 174 chapters, or "parlors," with a membership (December 31, 1916) of 20,722. Closely affiliated with it is the order of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, a similar organization for California women, with a total of 143 parlors.

The Native Sons have long been engaged in work tending to the perpetuation of the records of California's past. To them are

¹General Winn and one G. W. Anthony were admitted as honorary members; neither was a native of the state.

due the making of many historic spots and the repair and preservation of the far-famed California missions. Not the least important of their measures was the founding of the Native Sons' Fellowship in History at the University of California.²

B. The founding of the fellowships.—At the "Grand Parlor," or general, meeting of the Native Sons at Marysville in April, 1909, a resolution was adopted for the appointment of a committee of five to investigate and report, at the next session of the Grand Parlor, as to the feasibility of establishing a chair in California history at the state university. The committee conferred with Professor H. Morse Stephens, head of the history department at the University of California, who advised them that it would first be necessary to train a man for the position, since there was no one properly qualified for it. Professor Stephens suggested the founding of two annual fellowships of \$1500 each, to enable the holders to study California history at its sources in Spain and elsewhere. This idea was accepted by the committee, and was recommended to the order at the next meeting of the Grand Parlor, held in June, 1910, at Lake Tahoe. The resolution was referred to the finance committee, which reported in favor of a gift of \$1500 to the University of California for a Native Son's Fellowship for the following year. In this form, the resolution was adopted, and a committee of five was appointed to co-operate with the authorities of the university in carrying out the details of the grant. In June, 1911, at the Grand Parlor meeting, held at Santa Cruz, the sum of \$3000 was voted for two fellowships. Since that time, this amount has been appropriated for this purpose annually.³

C. Brief history of the fellowships.—While the Native Sons were evolving toward the idea of the fellowships, steps were be-

²Section A is based on Jung, Fred. H., *What, who, and how, the Native Sons*, in *Grizzly Bear magazine*, v. XX, no. 6, p. 25; April, 1917. Mr. Jung is Grand Secretary of the order.

³This paragraph is based upon a letter to the present writer by Mr. D. Q. Troy of Oakland, historiographer of the N. S. G. W. order. The letter is dated May 23, 1917; it contains much more than the brief statement given here, for which reason it has been turned over to the Bancroft Library. A noteworthy source for additional information is the *Grizzly Bear Magazine*, organ of the N. S. G. W. and the N. D. G. W., where detailed accounts of Grand Parlor meetings are to be found.

ing taken at the University of California which had much to do with the later success which the Fellows may fairly be said to have achieved. During his sabbatical year of 1909-1910, Professor Stephens spent several months in Spain, with the object of finding out whether an investigation of the archives of that country would yield much in the way of materials for California history. Without attempting an intensive investigation, he found enough to warrant a belief that a number of years could be spent there profitably, especially at the Archivo General de Indias, by students interested in the history of the Pacific coast. With this information and with many valuable copies, he returned to Berkeley, where he proceeded to take a fresh step in the upbuilding of a school of Pacific coast history. Since he himself was not a specialist in that field, it was necessary to find somebody who could train students for the problems that would confront them in making use of the materials in Spain. The logic of events pointed to Professor Herbert E. Bolton, then at Leland Stanford University, as the ideal man for that place. For many years, Professor Bolton had been the acknowledged master in the field embracing the former Spanish frontier, in regions now within the United States. Furthermore, he had made extended investigations of the archives of Mexico, the results of which were, shortly afterward, published in his well-known *Guide* in the Carnegie Institution series. In 1911, Professor Stephens was successful in his effort to induce this scholar to accept a position at the University of California, where he was to have principal charge of the graduate work in the department of history. In the meantime, however, the first Native Sons' Fellow had been appointed.

To Mr. Lawrence Palmer Briggs, Native Sons' Fellow for 1911-1912, all subsequent Fellows, and the writer more than all, owe a debt of gratitude. His was in a measure a step in the dark. Going to Spain without the benefit of Professor Bolton's training, and without an adequate idea of the problems awaiting him, he was placed in a more difficult position than any subsequent Fellow has been. It is gratifying to know that his work has had a positive result, even though he himself was not to bring it to fruition, for the publication of Dr. Priestley's volume on *José de Gálvez* depended in great degree on the investigation of Mr. Briggs.

His experiences in Spain, however, were of more particular value to the later Fellows, and especially to the writer, who was the next to go to Spain.⁴

The work of the writer as Native Son's Fellow in Spain from 1912 to 1914 resulted in the preparation of his "*Founding of Spanish California*" and his "*Catalogue of Materials in the Archivo General de Indias for the History of the Pacific Coast and the American Southwest*,"⁵ besides a number of articles. Upon his return, in 1914, he was appointed to a position in the history department of the University of California, and became the first instructor in the history of California at that University. Thus, one of the objects of the Native Sons was achieved.

The other fellowship for 1912-1913, the first year in which two were available, was divided between Mr. Joseph J. Hill and Mr. Tracy B. Kittredge, both of whom, as Resident Fellows, rendered service in the Bancroft Library. Mr. Hill carried on an investigation concerning the history of the Mormons in California.⁶

For the year 1913-1914, Mr. William Lytle Schurz was appointed, serving in Spain at the same time with the writer, after which Mr. Schurz was named for a second term, ending in 1915. His volume on the "*Manila Galleon*" is expected to be one of the next publications of the University of California.⁷

The second Fellow for the year 1914-1915 was Mr. Gordon C. Davidson. Instead of sending him to Spain, a departure from the usual practice was made when Mr. Davidson was instructed for work in England. He was on board the *Empress of Ireland* when that vessel went down at the mouth of the St. Lawrence river, losing all the notes with regard to his work that he had thus far prepared. Nevertheless, his year was spent to good ad-

⁴Upon his return from Spain, Mr. Briggs entered the United States consular service, and is now stationed at Saigon, Cochin China.

⁵A two-volume work now in press at the University of California.

⁶Mr. Hill has since been teaching in Utah. He is now in attendance again at the University of California, where he hopes to complete the work begun by him in 1912. Mr. Kittredge, after a period of service with the Belgian Relief Committee, is in England at the time of going to press.

⁷Dr. Schurz is now Assistant Professor of Latin American History at the University of Michigan, where he is listed for courses in Latin American history and the history of the Pacific area, offshoots of his service as Native Sons' Fellow.

vantage, and his "*History of the North West Company*" is already listed for publication at the University of California.⁸

Dr. Charles H. Cunningham and Mr. Karl C. Leebrick were appointed in 1915. The latter remained one year. A volume by him, "*The English Expedition to Manila in 1762*," is soon to be published. He also gathered materials for a catalogue, similar to the present work, covering the *Duplicados de Comandantes Generales* in the Audiencia de Guadalajara group of the Simancas papers.⁹

Dr. Cunningham remained two years in Spain, from 1915 to 1917. He has a volume on the *Audiencia de Filipinas* on the calendar for publication at the University of California, and has also been carrying on other institutional studies at Seville bearing upon Spanish American history.*

The second fellowship for 1916-1917 was awarded to Mr. Tracy B. Kittredge, who almost immediately resigned. His place was taken by Mr. George Leslie Albright. No finer young man or more promising scholar even went forth from the University of California than Mr. Albright. On December 15, 1915, he died at Seville, a victim of typhoid fever. He had continued work at the archive up to the day he was obliged to go to bed, and, to the last, seemed chiefly concerned over the check in the progress of his work. His volume on the Spanish frontier of New Spain and his proposed catalogue of the viceroy's correspondence will never appear over his name, but a master's thesis written by him, entitled *Federal Explorations for Trans-continental Railroads*, has been found to be so meritorious that it will be published at the University of California.¹⁰

Owing to the entrance of the United States into the war against Germany, it has become impossible to send Fellows to Europe for the present. Four Resident Fellows have therefore

*Dr. Davidson is now a lieutenant in the 19th Reserve Battalion of Canadian Infantry, on service in France.

⁹In 1917, Dr. Leebrick was appointed Instructor in Modern European History at the University of California.

*Dr. Cunningham is serving for the year 1917-1918 as instructor in Spanish-American history at the University of Texas.

¹⁰At the Grand Parlor meeting of the Native Sons, held at Redding, in April, 1917, a memorial estante, or legajo stack, to Mr. Albright was voted. It will be placed in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville.

been appointed for 1917-1918. They are Dr. Charles W. Hackett, Mr. John Lloyd Mecham, Mr. Charles S. Mitrani and Mr. J. Fred Rippy.¹¹

Dr. Hackett is already the author of a number of historical articles, and has a volume entitled *The Uprising of the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico in 1680* on the calendar for publication at the University of California.

It will be noticed that the Fellows have each prepared one or more volumes, all of them having a demonstrable bearing upon California history, as part of their work in connection with the fellowships. They have also procured copies for the use of a great body of students, not only for the Bancroft Library, but for other libraries and for a number of American scholars as well; they have represented the University of California on formal occasions in foreign lands; and, finally, they have prepared themselves for university positions, whereby they may spread the gospel of "the Golden West" throughout the country.

¹¹Mr. Mecham and Mr. Mitrani have since resigned their fellowships and have gone to France to take part in the war. They are in the University of California Red Cross ambulance unit number two.